CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 16 September 1969, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. A. ZELLEKE (Ethiopia)

(Previous verbatim records in this series appeared under the symbols ENDC/PV.1-ENDC/PV.430)

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PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Argentina:	Mr. C. ORTIZ de ROZAS
	Mr. A.F. DUMONT
	Mr. O. SARACHO
Brazil:	Mr. S.A. FRAZAO
	Mr. L.F. PALMEIRA LAMBREIA
	Mr. M. DARCY de OLIVEIRA
Bulgaria:	Mr. K. CHRISTOV
	Mr. I. PEINIRDJIEV
Burma:	U KYAW MIN
Canada:	Mr. G. IGNATIEFF
	Mr. R.W. CLARK
	Mr. J.R. MORDEN
Czechoslovakia:	Mr. T. LAHODA
	Mr. M. VEJVODA
	Mr. J. CINGROS
Ethiopia:	Mr. A. ZELLEKE
Hungary:	Mr. I. KOMIVES
	Mr. I. SARKADI
	Mr. S. HAJNAL
India:	Mr. M.A. HUSAIN
	Mr. N. KRISHNAN
	Mr. K.P. JAIN
Italy:	Mr. R. CARACCIOLO
	Mr. F.L. OTTIERI
	Mr. R. BORSARELLI
	Mr. U. PESTALOZZA

Japan:	Mr. K. ASAKAI
	Mr. Y. NAKAYAMA
	Mr. T. SENGOKU
Mexico:	Mr. J. CASTANEDA
	Miss E. AGUIRRE
Mongolia:	Mr. M. DUGERSUREN
	Mr. Z. ERENDOO
Netherlands:	Mr. H.F. ESCHAUZIER
	Mr. E. BOS
Nigeria:	Mr. C.O. HOLLIST
Pakistan:	Mr. S.A.D. BUKHARI
Poland:	Mr. A. CZARKOWSKI
	Mr. H. STEPOSZ
	Mr. R. WLAZLO
Romania:	Mr. N. ECOBESCO
	Mr. C. MITRAN
	Mr. A. SASU
	Mrs. F. DINU
Sweden:	Mrs. A. MYRDAL
	Mr. A. EDELSTAM
	Mr. R. BOMAN
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:	Mr. A.A. ROSHCHIN
	Mr. R.M. TIMERBAEV
	Mr. V.B. TOULINOV
	Mr. Y.C. NAZARKINE
United Arab Republic:	Mr. O. SIRRY
	Mr. Y. RIZK
	Mr. M. ISMAIL

United Kingdom:	Mr. I.F. PORTER
	Mr. W.N. HILLIER-FRY
	Mr. R.I.T. CROMARTIE
United States of America:	Mr. J.F. LEONARD
	Mr. A.F. NEIDLE
	Mr. W. GIVAN
	Mr. R.L. McCORMACK
Yugoslavia:	Mr. M. BOZINOVIC
	Mr. M. VUKOVIC
Special Representative of the Secretary-General:	Mr. D. PROTITCH
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General:	Mr. W. EPSTEIN

1. The CHAIRMAN (Ethiopia): I declare open the 436th plenary meeting of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

2. Mr. LEONARD (United States of America): In view of the high degree of interest shown by many delegations regarding proposals for increased co-operation in seismic studies, related to a comprehensive test ban, I would like to inform the Committee of the successful detonation of the peaceful nuclear explosion, Project Rulison, to which the United States representative in this Committee has referred on several occasions. This explosion was primarily intended to investigate the recovery of natural gas, but it also provided the first occasion for utilizing the detailed procedures suggested by the United States for international exchange of data in order to advance international understanding of seismology. Our proposal for this data exchange was first made at the General Assembly on 5 December 1968 (A/C.1/PV.1630, provisional, pp. 18-22) and was described in more detail in our working paper of last May (ENDC/252).

3. Since much of the pertinent information has been provided already, my brief statement today is intended to follow up our proposal by describing some of the preliminary results of this experiment. Owing to meteorological conditions, the explosion was postponed from its original date of 4 September and was actually detonated on 10 September 1969.

4. In preparation for this experiment the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey had already informed seismic stations throughout the world of the relevant details. Stations were told that the depth of the explosion would be 8,443 feet and that it would take place in a medium composed primarily of sandstone and shale. The precise geographic co-ordinates and elevation of the experiment were also given.

5. The explosion took place at exactly 21 hours, 00 minutes, 00.1 seconds, Greenwich Mean Time. As anticipated in the design of the experiment, the preliminary estimate of the yield of the explosion was 40 kilotons. The preliminary body wave magnitude, m_b, of the event was estimated as 5.1.

6. Following the explosion, the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey cabled, again on a world-wide basis, to seismic stations and seismological centres the exact origin time and the preliminary estimates of yield and magnitude. Stations were asked, if they recorded the event, to provide the data they recorded, such as the arrival time and the period and amplitude recorded by both short- and long-period instruments. In order to facilitate prompt analysis of the data, stations were requested to send their reports directly to the Coast and Geodetic Survey as soon as possible.

(Mr. Leonard, United States)

7. I should like to recall to the Committee, many of whose member countries already participate in international seismic exchanges, that the value of this experiment, in terms of co-operative seismic research, will depend greatly on timely and complete responses from stations all over the world.

8. As we explained earlier, data from the explosion collected in the United States will be available at the World Data Center in Washington, D.C. The Coast and Geodetic Survey will in turn assemble the data collected from all stations reporting and will prepare a report which will include computations, using all the available seismic data, of the calculated location of the explosion, the origin time, the yield of the explosion and the seismic magnitude. The report will also include an analysis of the event with respect to seismic criteria for distinguishing between explosions and earthquakes.

9. Since the seismic data will be available from the United States and other data centres, we may assume that other interested States and organizations will prepare independent analyses. The studies performed can then be discussed in the relevant technical and scientific forums.

10. I would hope that as many countries and organizations as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to participate in what we are confident will be a valuable demonstration of co-operative research. We believe that efforts such as these will contribute to a more complete understanding of seismology and of its relation to a comprehensive test ban.

The Conference decided to issue the following communiqué:

"The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament today held its 436th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of Mr. Afework Zelleke, representative of Ethiopia.

"A statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

"The delegation of Mexico submitted a report on the first session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) (CCD/268).

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 18 September 1969, at 10.30 a.m."

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.